

Remarks

Claims 1-17 were pending.

Claims 3, 4 and 17 are canceled.

Claims 1-2 and 5-16 are now pending and are under consideration.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 9 are amended.

The present claims are amended to remove the definition of R₃ and R₄ together forming a ring.

Claim 1 is also amended to include the definitions of claims 3 and 4.

No new matter is added.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 USC 101.

Claim 17 is canceled.

Claims 1-12 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Nagao, EP837085.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Nagao.

Present R₃ and R₄ now do not form a ring. In view of the present amendments, there is now a clear line of demarcation between the disclosure of Nagao and the present claims.

Applicants submit that the 35 USC 102(b) and 35 USC 103(a) rejections over Nagao are addressed and are overcome.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Lee, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 3,036,040.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Brunelle, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,217,438.

Claims 1, 6, 8, 10-12 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over JP06220182.

Claims 1, 6, 8 and 10-17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over JP06220182.

The present claims now include the definitions of claims 3 and 4. In view of the amendments, Applicants submit that these 35 USC 102(b) and 35 USC 103(a) rejections are addressed and are overcome.

In view of the present amendments and these remarks, Applicants submit that each of the claim rejections are addressed and are overcome.

The Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and to withdraw the present rejections.

Applicants submit that the present claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,



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